GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:147
ANSWERED ON:02.08.2000
LOOTING OF EMIGRANT LABOURERS
JAGMEET SINGH BRAR;RAMPAL SINGH

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the existence of rackets in different parts of the country, involved in looting labourers on the pretext of providing employment in foreign countries;

(b) if so, the number of such cases, which have come to the notice of the Government during the last three years;

(c) whether in this connection, the Government had also seen the report appearing in the `Daily Tribune` dated July 4, 2000 captioned `Foodless on a rusty ship`;

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard as well as in other cases which have come to the notice of the Government;

(e) whether the Government would simplify the procedure relating to emigration of workers; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA)

(a) to (f): A statement is placed on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (F) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 147 FOR 02.08.2000 BY S/SHRI J.S. BRAR AND RAMPAL SINGH REGARDING LOOTING OF EMIGRANT LABOURERS.

(a) & (b): Sporadic complaints regarding cheating of intending emigrants are received against the agencies engaged in the business of recruitment of Indian workers for overseas employment. While some of the agencies against whom the complaints are received, are registered with the Govt. under the Emigration Act, 1983, others are operating unauthorisedly. Complaints generally relate to collection of service charges in excess of the amount provided for under rules, collection of money from the intending emigrants but not actually sending them for overseas employment, sending some of the workers to other countries against non-existing jobs and in some cases changing the terms and conditions of employment of the workers, on reaching the alien land, to their disadvantage. During the last 3 years, the number of such complaints received by the Govt. was as under:-

Year	No. of Complaints
1997	91
1998	122
1999	163

(c) & (d): Government are aware of the report appearing in the daily Tribune on 4.7.2000 captioned `Foodless on a rusty ship`. However, this incidence has not been brought to the notice of the Indian Embassy in Jordon or the Ministry of Labour either by the victims or by the local Govt. of Amman. With a view to curbing the activities of unauthorised agents, detailed guide-lines have been issued to the State Government for issue of necessary instructions right upto the police station level for keeping strict vigil on the activities of agents and registration of cases against them. Going by the news report, a case is already reported to have been registered by the local police against the unauthorised agents under Sections 406,420,506 and 120 of the IPC. One person is reported to have been arrested and two others were absconding. In the event of such agents being the registered recruiting agents, action is initiated for suspension/cancellation of their registration certificates if the complaints of the workers are not settled. During the last three years registration certificates of 32 agents were suspended and 2 registration certificates were cancelled.

(e) & (f): The procedure relating to grant of emigration clearance to workers seeking overseas employment is already simplified and has been working satisfactorily.